

a cartridge body configured such that said signal recording apparatus can record a signal onto a removable recording medium housed within said cartridge body when said cartridge body is loaded in said signal recording apparatus;

an opening in said cartridge body for removing said recording medium from said cartridge body;

an indicator for indicating whether a cover over said opening has ever been opened or removed from said cartridge body, said indicator comprising a detachable claw engaging said cartridge such that detaching said claw from said cartridge enables a user to unlatch a latch of said cartridge and thereby open or remove said cover from said cartridge body; and

a detector which determines the presence or absence of said detachable claw.

7. (Amended) A signal recording apparatus capable of receiving a cartridge for housing a recording medium therein, said cartridge comprising:

a cartridge body configured such that said signal recording apparatus can record a signal onto a removable recording medium when said cartridge is loaded in said signal recording apparatus;

an opening in said cartridge body for removing said recording medium from said cartridge body;

a cover covering said opening; and

an indicator for indicating whether said cover has ever been opened or removed from said cartridge body, said indicator comprising a detachable claw engaging said cartridge such that detaching said claw from said cartridge enables a user to unlatch a latch of said cartridge and thereby open or remove said cover from said cartridge body; and

a detector which determines the presence or absence of said detachable claw.

8. (Amended) A signal recording apparatus capable of receiving a cartridge for housing a recording medium therein, said cartridge comprising:

a cartridge body having at least one window for permitting recording of a signal onto a removable recording medium when said cartridge is loaded in said signal recording apparatus;

an opening in said cartridge body for removing said recording medium from said cartridge body;

a cover covering said opening; and

an indicator for indicating whether said cover has ever been opened or removed from said cartridge body, said indicator comprising a detachable claw engaging said cartridge such that detaching said claw from said cartridge enables a user to unlatch a latch of said cartridge and thereby open or remove said cover from said cartridge body,

a detector which determines the presence or absence of said detachable claw.

9. (Amended) A signal recording apparatus capable of receiving a cartridge for housing a recording medium therein, said cartridge comprising:

a cartridge body comprising:

first, second and third surfaces, with said first and second surfaces being on opposite sides of said cartridge body,

a first window in said first surface for permitting recording of a signal onto a removable recording medium when said recording medium is loaded in said signal recording apparatus, and

a second window in said second surface for permitting recording of a signal onto said recording medium when said recording medium is loaded in said signal recording apparatus, said second window being of an approximately identical shape as that of said first window;

an opening provided in said third surface for removing said recording medium from said cartridge;

a cover covering said opening; and